

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
December 8, 2006**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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**MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED AS AN AGGRAVATED FELON FOR
ILLEGALLY RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES**

– Charged by state in conspiracy to sell 5 pounds of marijuana

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that on December 7, 2006, **JESUS MEZA-GARCIA**, age 39, a native and citizen of Mexico, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky for illegally re-entering the United States after having previously been deported.

United States District Judge Jennifer B. Coffman sentenced **Meza-Garcia** to 3 years and 5 months and 2 years of supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.** **Meza-Garcia** is subject to deportation after serving his sentence.

On September 7, 2006, **Meza-Garcia** pled guilty and admitted that on or about May 3, 2006, in Jefferson County, Kentucky, he was arrested by the Kentucky State Police for his alleged participation in a marijuana drug deal. Upon his arrest, **Meza-Garcia** was charged in state court with conspiracy to traffic in marijuana involving more than five pounds (these charges were later dismissed). At the time of his arrest, **Meza-Garcia** admitted to being a Mexican national who had

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entered the United States illegally. **Meza-Garcia** was then turned over to the Bureau of

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, for further investigation.

A records check was performed by Special Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whereupon it was found that **Meza-Garcia** was a citizen of Mexico who had previously been deported from the United States on March 3, 2006, through the Hidalgo, Texas Port of Entry. Further records checks revealed that **Meza-Garcia** had previously been convicted of this same offense, Illegal re-entry after deportation, and conspiracy to distribute cocaine in federal court on December 20, 1999, and September 26, 1991, respectively. At sentencing, Meza-Garcia was found to be an aggravated felon based upon his prior federal drug trafficking conviction.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel P. Kinnicutt, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Kentucky State Police.

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